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Title: The Grading of canning crops in Pennsylvania

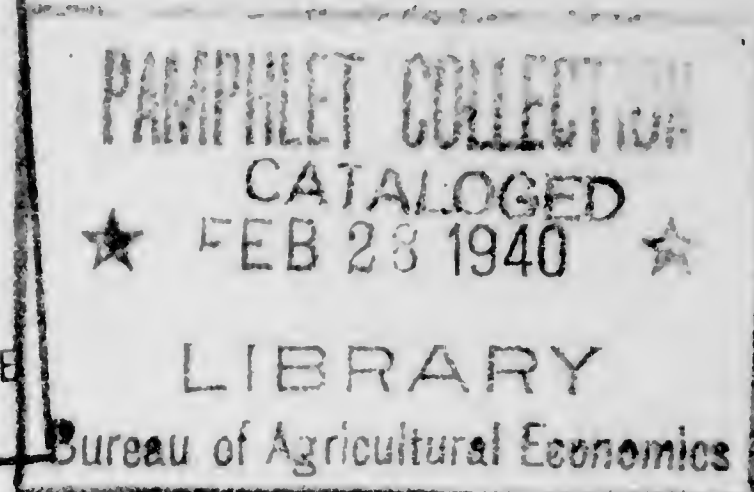
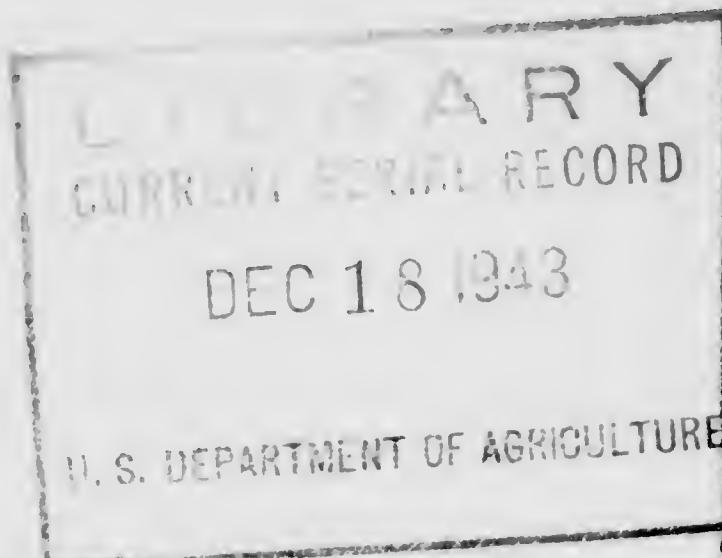
Place of Publication: Harrisburg

Copyright Date: 1937

Master Negative Storage Number: MNS# PSt SNP aAg084.14

280.39
P38

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THE GRADING OF CANNING CROPS

IN

PENNSYLVANIA

1937

SEASON

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Jas. L. States,
Acting Director

BUREAU OF MARKETS
PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DRY. '89

THE GRADING OF CANNING CROPS IN PENNSYLVANIA

D. M. James

Pennsylvania is not commonly considered to be a leading canning State - probably because of the great diversity of products processed in the Commonwealth. Also the rapid growth of the industry in recent years has made this one of the great canning States before its position became generally recognized. As recently as 1890, only 150 acres of tomatoes were grown for canning in Pennsylvania. By 1927 this had increased to 4,300 acres but by 1937, the acreage had assumed the impressive figure of 16,000. The acreage of all vegetable crops for canning has doubled in the past decade, while the canning of fruits, mushrooms and specialties has increased even more rapidly. It is little wonder therefore, that Pennsylvania is now rated as one of the greatest canning States in the Union.

It is not surprising that Pennsylvania has taken an important position in the canning industry of the nation because many conditions in the Commonwealth favor a thriving canning industry for high quality foods. It IS surprising that Pennsylvania farmers and canners have not sooner realized the excellent possibilities for a much greater industry within the confines of the State boundaries. Canning crops which have recently increased most rapidly and showing the greatest promise of expanding further include Tomatoes, Sweet Peas, Golden Bantam Corn, Wax Beans, Baby Lima Beans, Mushrooms, Sour Cherries and Apples. To list briefly some of the advantages of Pennsylvania as a canning State: favorable climatic and soil conditions, the prevalence of good farm practices and crop rotations, proximity to most of the nation's largest markets and abundance of labor for field or cannery.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has welcomed the increasing cash income of Pennsylvania farmers from canning crops. The Department has felt that the soundest development in the canning industry is the program which Pennsylvania canners have launched to produce the highest quality possible. During the past eleven years Pennsylvania canners and the Department have cooperated in the inspection of raw

cannery products, the primary purpose of which is to improve the quality of canning crops, which is directly reflected in the quality of the processed goods.

The purpose of this bulletin is to summarize the progress made in this State-supervised work since its inception in 1927.

EARLY DEVELOPMENTS

It has been stated by leading economists that one of the most serious indictments of the ordinary marketing system is that it tends to underpay the producer of high quality and overpay the producer of low quality goods. In the winter of 1926-1927, the officers of the Pennsylvania Cannery Association realizing that Pennsylvania producers of high quality were not being paid sufficient for high quality canning crops - and also realizing that higher quality canned goods can only be produced by putting better quality raw stock in the cans, appealed to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture for grading assistance. Some experimental grading work with tomatoes had been carried on by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in several leading States and the U. S. grades for cannery tomatoes had been established. No experience with the actual purchase of tomatoes, or other canning crops, was available. However in 1927, three canners in Pennsylvania agreed to experimental tomato grading, the acquired information to be used in setting up this work in following years. A total of 235,000 pounds of tomatoes was classified by State inspectors as being 51% - U.S.No.1, 39% U.S.No. 2 and 10% Culls.

With the results of the 1927 experimental grading available, three tomato canners in Pennsylvania purchased tomatoes on the basis of the U. S. grades during 1928. During the same year apples and grapes purchased in the State for processing were first classified by State inspectors, the total volume of graded purchases that year amounting to 8,842,000 pounds. The first snap beans for canning were graded by State inspectors in 1929, the first sour cherries in 1930, pea and corn grading started in 1935, and lima beans in 1937. The growth of the work both as to commodities and volume has continued upward from the 235,000 pounds initially inspected experimentally in 1927 to the all-time high figure of 161,141,143 pounds of seven canning crops inspected in 1937.

Table 1 - Cannery Crops Inspected by Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (1927 - 1937)

	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927
	T H O U S A N D P O U N D S										
Totals	161,141	135,103	102,734	74,920	46,716	68,697	53,454	43,793	13,488	8,842	235
Apples	64,218	58,754	48,233	35,553	22,983	41,972	32,114	36,453	8,956	2,284	--
Berries	--	344	--	12	19	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cherries	7,707	4,984	4,497	2,051	307	657	2,479	2,710	--	--	--
Corn	5,860	1,620	1,193	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Grapes	10,680	10,540	9,109	6,397	3,400	3,914	5,176	3,005	1,802	5,653	--
Lima Beans	159	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Peas	3,705	1,009	1,044	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Snap Beans	--	--	--	--	--	112	320	132	373	--	--
Tomatoes	69,192	57,852	38,158	30,907	20,007	21,694	13,364	1,493	2,357	905	235

BULK APPLE GRADING - 1937

Bulk apples graded by State inspectors for canneries or packing houses in 1937 totaled 64,218,087 pounds, an increase over 1936 of 10% and 50% over 1935.

Previous to 1937, bulk apples had been classified at canneries by combining the canning and the fresh fruit grades. By the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture regulations issued in May 1937, the grading of canning crops was limited to the canning crop grades. This changed the grading so that apples were classified entirely according to their value as canning stock i.e. these grades are based entirely on the amount of waste in preparation for use and not on such factors as color or defects of the skin which have considerable bearing on the fresh fruit grades. Comparison of the grading results in 1937 with the results of previous seasons indicate that more satisfactory inspection is secured by the elimination of the barrelling grades for canning crop purchases.

Inspectors were located at the following receiving-points to inspect bulk apples in 1937:

Coop. Fruit Growers of Adams Co.	Aspers
Coop. Fruit Growers of Adams Co.	Seven Stars
M. E. Knouse Corporation	Chambersburg
M. E. Knouse Corporation	Peach Glen
C. H. Musselman Company	Biglerville
C. H. Musselman Company	Gardners

SOUR CHERRY GRADING - 1937

Pennsylvania's rapidly expanding sour cherry industry produced a large crop in the southern part of the State and a moderate crop in Erie County in 1937. The volume inspected in 1937 rose sharply to 7,707,449 pounds, an increase of 2-3/4 million pounds over 1936. The grades averaged 91% U.S.No. 1 and 9% culls compared to 93% U.S.No. 1 and 7% culls in 1936.

Practically all sour cherries purchased in the State for processing are being purchased under State inspection.

Inspectors were located at the following cherry receiving-points in 1937:

Liberty Preserving Company	North East
C. H. Musselman Company	Biglerville

W. E. McIntosh Company
Sunshine Packing Company
Todkill & Chapman

North East
North East
North East

CORN GRADING - 1937

The volume of corn inspected during the season increased to 5,860,140 pounds from 1,619,647 pounds in 1936. As in previous years, growers who contracted to deliver corn subject to State grading were able to receive considerably greater returns per ton and per acre than growers in the State who delivered to canneries on the flat-rate basis.

Inspectors were located at the following corn receiving-points in 1937:

Bloomsburg Packing Company	Bloomsburg
Hillsboro-Queen Anne Corp.	Bloomsburg

GRAPE GRADING - 1937

The 1937 season marked the ninth consecutive year that Pennsylvania grape growers have sold their grapes to juice plants under State inspection. The volume in 1937 reached an all-time high of 10,680,000 pounds.

The manufacturers contract with the growers for U. S. No. 1 juice grapes with certain requirements waived, such as split berries and straggly bunches. The net returns to the growers are usually higher than the returns received from carlot or truck sales, since expense of packing, selling and cost of containers are eliminated in selling to the processors.

LIMA BEAN GRADING - 1937

The first lima beans were purchased in Pennsylvania under State inspection in 1937. There being no Federal or State grades, the contracts with the growers specified green beans free from defects would be paid for on the basis of \$ 85.00 a ton. Yellow or defective beans would be paid for on the basis of \$ 30.00 a ton. 158,674 pounds were purchased under this grading.

PEA GRADING - 1937

Pea grading increased 270% over 1936, totaling 3,705,000 pounds compared to 1,009,000 pounds a year ago. The quality of the peas was improved over 1936, grading 75% Fancy, 18% Extra Standard and 7% Standard compared with 53% - 30%

- 17% in the respective grades in 1936. Approximately 33% of the pea acreage in the State was delivered on the basis of State grades in 1937.

TOMATO GRADING - 1937

The purchase of tomatoes on the basis of U. S. grades increased in volume 20% over 1936, to the all-time high of 69,192,000 pounds. Including 4,275 acres grown in eastern Pennsylvania Counties for delivery to canning factories in New Jersey, approximately 88% of the total crop was purchased on the basis of the U. S. grades. The quality of the 1937 deliveries was the lowest since 1933, due to adverse weather conditions which severely cut tomato yields and quality in the State. A comparison of average grades since 1927 are shown in Table No. 2.

Table No. 2 Classification of Graded Tomatoes in Pennsylvania - 1927 - 1937.
(Weighted Average Percent)

	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927
U.S. No.1	60	76	61	61	51	52	46	42	54	41	51
U.S. No.2	36	22	35	34	43	43	45	54	42	51	39
Culls	4	2	4	5	6	5	9	4	4	8	10

Table No. 3 gives a comparison of grades and prices at Pennsylvania canneries which purchased tomatoes on the basis of the U. S. grades in 1937. The average price for grade-purchased stock was \$ 14.69 for the season while the average price for flat-rate purchases was \$ 12.76. In 1936 the average graded price was \$ 14.84, the average flat-rate price was \$ 12.73 a ton.

Table No. 3 - Comparison of Tomato Grades and Prices at Penna. Canneries - 1937.

	U.S.No.1	U.S.No.2	Culls	U.S.No.1	U.S.No.2	Average Price
Cannery A	72%	26%	2%	\$ 17.00	\$ 9.00	\$ 14.51
" B	68	30	2	17.00	9.00	14.23
" C	53	45	2	18.00	10.00	14.04
" D	60	35	5	17.00	9.00	14.35
" E	57	38	5	18.00	10.00	13.90
" F	62	33	5	17.00	9.00	13.60
" G	76	21	3	17.25	11.50	15.52
" H	58	38	4	16.00	11.00	13.46
" I	54	41	5	16.00	10.00	12.74
" J	59	35	6	17.00	9.00	13.17
" K	60	35	2	18.00	11.00	14.65
" L	59	35	6	18.00	10.00	13.88
STATE AVERAGE	60	36	4	-	-	14.69*

*Includes price received for Pennsylvania-grown tomatoes delivered to New Jersey canneries. This table does not include three canneries that purchased No. 1 and No.2 tomatoes at an equal price.

State inspectors were located at the following tomato receiving-points in the State in 1937:

Bloomsburg Packing Company	Bloomsburg
Burgoon & Yingling	Gettysburg
Campbell Soup Company	Lancaster
Greencastle Packing Company	Greencastle
Hanover Canning Company	Hanover
Hillsboro-Queen Anne Corp.	Bloomsburg
H. J. Heinz Company	Milton, Chambersburg, Wakefield, Florin, Lebanon & Millersville
Landreth Seed Company	Bristol
Lineboro Canning Company	Hanover
C. H. Musselman Company	Biglerville
Myers Canning Company	Spring Grove
North East Pres. Works	North East
Shenk & Bowman	Newville
G. Bartol Silver	Christiana
Welch Grape Juice Company	North East

SUPERVISION AND COST OF CANNERY PRODUCTS INSPECTION

This is a self-supporting service under State supervision. Federal grades adopted as official for use in Pennsylvania are used as far as possible. Strict adherence to the grade specifications is practiced except where canners contract for the use of Federal grades with certain additional tolerances. All inspectors are trained and licensed by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Markets and may be secured through the Federal-State Inspection Service, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Harrisburg. The charge for the service in 1937 was \$ 45.00 a week, of which \$ 3.00 covered State expenses of supervision, the balance (\$ 42.00) used to meet the actual expenses of the service, including wages, compensation insurance, inspectors' reporting expenses, etc. During 1937 the average cost of inspecting 161 million pounds of cannery products was 11¢ a ton compared with 12¢ in 1936, 11-1/2¢ in 1935, 13-2/3¢ in 1934, 12-2/3¢ in 1933 and 18¢ in 1932.

Additional copies of this report or additional information regarding this service will be furnished upon request from the Federal-State Inspection Service, Bureau of Markets, Harrisburg, Pa.

END OF YEAR